



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Meeting Announcement

April 10, 2006

DEQ announces public meeting on water quality study

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host a public meeting on a water quality study for Nansemond River and Shingle Creek in Suffolk on April 10, 2006.

The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. in the Morgan Memorial Library located at 443 W. Washington Street in Suffolk. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and discuss the study with community members and local government.

The Virginia Departments of Environmental Quality, Conservation and Recreation, and Health are working to identify the sources of bacteria pollution in the Nansemond River watershed. This pollution decreases the quality of the water, and prohibits swimming or recreational use, and the direct harvest and consumption of shellfish in these waters.

During the study, a total maximum daily load, TMDL, has been developed for fecal coliform bacteria and enterococci in the waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a

water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, pollutant levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

Streams with impaired quality include Shingle Creek (Recreation and Shellfish Consumption), Upper Nansemond River (Recreation), and Nansemond River and Tributaries (Shellfish Consumption).

For more information, contact Jennifer Howell, in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office in Virginia Beach, by phone (757) 518-2111 or by e-mail jshowell@deq.virginia.gov. Additional information is also available on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.